



TulalipCares.org

## Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

**NAME OF AGENCY:** Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center

**ADDRESS:** 1625 19th AVE., Seattle, WA 98122

**CONTACT:** (206) 323-5770; [www.HSDC.org](http://www.HSDC.org)

**GENERAL GOALS:** For our clients to achieve their maximum potential through effective communication connections with family and community.

### **SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:**

During the past year, Parent-Infant Program (PIP) staff members worked with children and their families to create an environment of respect and self-esteem while providing specialized education focused on communication skills as well as cognitive, social/emotional and motor skills. At the same time, Client Advocates and Communication Specialists in our Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) department worked with people of all ages to help remove communication barriers due to hearing loss.

For more information see the attached pages from Hearing, Speed & Deafness Center.

# Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center

January 8, 2015

Marilyn Sheldon  
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund  
8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

Dear Marilyn,

On behalf of the staff and board members of Hearing, Speech & Deafness Center (HSDC), we would like to thank the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund once again for the generous grant supporting our services in Snohomish County. **Below is a report detailing our progress since your grant funds were received in June 2014.**

During the past year, Parent-Infant Program (PIP) staff members worked with children and their families to create an environment of respect and self-esteem while providing specialized education focused on communication skills as well as cognitive, social/emotional and motor skills. At the same time, Client Advocates and Communication Specialists in our Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) department worked with people of all ages to help remove communication barriers due to hearing loss.

Home visits are the heart of PIP, and are supplemented by weekly Center services for children and their families. PIP's bilingual approach provides a strong foundation in both American Sign Language (ASL) and spoken English. Activities supporting progress towards these goals included:

- 1,020 Home Visits
- 2 Celebrate Reading Nights
- 28 Family Nights, including:
  - o Communication Playgroups
  - o Sibling groups
  - o American Sign Language (ASL) instruction
  - o Parent Education & Support Groups

During the past year, PIP Families continued to demonstrate improved family management skills, reported increased connections to other parents and community resources, gained family-wide and age-appropriate communication skills, cognitive and socialization skills, and made successful transitions to preschool. HSDC uses a number of tools to track progress towards these specific goals, including child developmental assessments, parent surveys, case notes, and a newly developed home visit observation checklist. These tools show that children served nearly always show significant improvement in their language development (as well as other developmental skills) given a minimum of 6 months of service. Parents also increase their communication and parenting skills. According to recent Parent Post Surveys:

- 90% had improved American Sign Language skills
- 93% felt that their communication with their deaf or hard of hearing child had improved
- 90% can almost always recognize when their child is trying to communicate with them
- 78% can usually or almost always understand their child's need/s and respond
- 100% can usually or almost always describe things they do and see to their child in a way that their child understands

HSDC's Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) staff members removed communication barriers for people with hearing loss, helping them to connect with the world around them and increase their independence. Last year, DHHS provided:

- 2,282 hours of individual case management services to approximately 160 people with hearing loss in Western Washington and Snohomish County
- Information and referrals in response to 4,245 questions from over 1,500 clients
- Access to technology through free videophone use and loan of other assistive technology to over 400 people

More specifically within Snohomish County, HSDC helped community members increase their use of available resources and maximize their independence.

- 25 people participated in education and/or outreach presentations designed to educate them about services available and how to access them
- 173 people received valuable information on a variety of topics related to hearing loss and accessing services
- 20 Snohomish county residents worked one-on-one with Client Advocates to identify their needs, set goals and achieve those goals. One example is below:

*Grace\* come to see on HSDC Client Advocate in a panic because her laptop was not working. Grace is Deaf and her laptop was her savior and constant companion. It allowed her to call friends, work, and look up information using the internet and Videophone options. It removed communication barriers resulting from her hearing loss and made everything more accessible. Now it wasn't working and she wasn't able to work, communicate with others, or do all the things she needed or wanted to do.*

*The HSDC Client Advocate, NOT an expert in laptops, took a cursory look and quickly realized that Grace had a computer virus that would have to be removed and her laptop fixed before it could be used again. Simple chores like getting your laptop fixed are far more complicated, however, when you are Deaf and struggle to communicate with people who are hearing.*

*The Advocate helped Grace find various resources to fix her laptop, and counseled her on how to approach them and get price estimates and other information. In the end, Grace was able to find a friend with experience who fixed her laptop at very low cost. Now Grace is not only reconnected to the world around her, but she also feels more comfortable researching and negotiating for services and will be better prepared to deal effectively with whatever crisis life may throw at her in the future.*

*\*Name changed to protect client confidentiality*

Last year HSDC served approximately 300 Snohomish County residents facing challenges due to hearing loss. Because of support from funders such as the Tulalip Tribes, we were able to offer these vital services at no cost to the families. Thank you again for your support. You have given children, adults and families the gift of communication and with this valuable gift have also strengthened our community. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Tulalip Tribes. If you have any additional questions about HSDC's programs or this report, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 206.388.1256 or email at [mcoleman@hfdc.org](mailto:mcoleman@hfdc.org).

Sincerely,

*Michelle S Coleman*

Michelle Coleman-Papineau  
Development Officer

*Thanks again!  
He also enclosed  
some pictures. 😊*





